## CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Many of Them Are Derived From the Remote Past.

ANCIENT FORMS OF CELEBRATION

An Interesting Description of Old-Time Usages.

CAROLS, FOOD AND GAMES

Written for The Evening Star.

It is becoming more and more the fashion to climb back down into the past and delve among the archaic and the antique in search of the genesis and customs that prevail today, and consequently it will be interesting to consider the customs of the Christmas season followed by our ancesters, from which many of our customs are derived. From a very early period Christian nations have celebrated Christmas about the time of the shortest day in the year, but the origin of the custom must be looked for even earlier than this, for it must be remembered that the church did not as a general rule invent new festivals, but altered pagan ones to suit her own good purposes. Especially was this the case with Christmas. The Romans worshiped Saturn at this time, hence their Saturnalia, during which their slaves were allowed freedom of speech, and when, in fact, they traded places with their masters for a short time. The Puritan author of

for a short time. The Puritan author of the Historia Mastix was, perhaps, not far from wrong when he said: "If we compare our Bacchanalian Christ-masses and New Year's tides with the Saturnalia and Feasts of Janus, we shall find such near affinitye between them, both in regard of time (they being both in the end of December and on the 1st of January.) of December and on the 1st of January.)
and in their manner of solemnising (both
of them being spent in revelling epicurisme, wantonesse, idlenesse, dancing,
drinking, stage plaies, masques, and carnall
pomp and jolity.) that we must needs conclude the one to be but the very issue of

## The Date of the Festival.

As every one knows, the festival of Christmas is the most important of the ecclesiastical year, but in olden times it was celebrated on different days, and the generally accepted view now is that the date upon which it is celebrated does not correspond with the actual date of the birth of the Savior. Some communities used to celebrate the festival on the 1st or 6th of January and others on the 29th of March. A difference also existed in the practice of the Eastern and Western churches, the former observing it on the 6th of January and the latter on December 25. Pope Julius who reigned from 337 to 352, was the first pope, so St. Chrysostom says, who fixed the date on December 25, and all Christian nations now celebrate it on the

Sir Isaac Newton, in his Commentary on the Prophecies of Daniel, says that the feast of the Nativity, like other festivals, was originally fixed. was originally fixed at cardinal points of year, without any reference to the dates of the incidents they commemorated. The generally received view now is that the date does not correspond with the actual date of the Nativity. The shepherds could not have watched by night on the Bethlehem plains in December, which is a period of great inclement.

Bethlehem plains in December, which is a period of great inclemency.

In the opinion of some the Christmas festival commences on the 16th of December, or O Sapientia day; and of others, that it begins on the eve before Christmas cay. The festival, of course, ends on the Purification of the Virgin, or Candlemas, when all decorations in churches must be taken down. Sir Walter Scott's beautiful lines on Christmas eve from Marmion are well worth quoting: worth quoting:

on Christmas Eve the bells were rung;
On Christmas Eve the mass was sung;
That only night, in all the year.
Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear.
The damsel donned her kirtle sheen;
The hall was dressed with holly green;
Forth to the wood did merry men go.
To gather in the mistletoe.
Then opened wide the baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf and all;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And Ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir, with roses in his shoes,
That night might village partner choose.
The lord, underogating, share
The vulgar game of 'post and pair.'
All halled, with uncontrolled delight,
And general voice, the happy night,
That to the cottage, as the crown,
Brought tidings of salvation down.
Opposition in Scotland.

Opposition in Scotland.

During the middle ages Christmas was celebrated with great rejoicing, and at the period of the Reformation, when the Calvinists rejected the festival absolutely, the Anglican and Lutheran churches retained it, as well as the other festivals. In Scotfand the clergy tried to throw contempt on the day. They caused their wives and servants to spin and their tenants to yoke their oxen to plow. But John Hamilton tells us that "our Lord has not left it unpunisit; for their oxen ran wod (mad), and brak their nekis, and leamit (lamed) sum pleughmen, as is notoriously knawin in sundrie parties of Scotland." The Scots make merry on New Year day instead of at Christmas.

The Decoration of Churches.

From a very early period churches have been decorated at Christmas, a custom derived from the pagans. Stowe tells that against the feast of Christmas every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme (the evergreen cak), ivy, bayes, &c. The conduits and cash, ivy, bayes, &c. The conduits and standards in the streets were likewise garnished, among the which I read that in the year 1444, by tempest of thunder and lightling, toward the morning of Candiemas day, at the Leadenhall, in Cornhill, a standard of tree, being set up in the midst of the pavement, fast in the ground, nailed full of holme and ivie, for disport of Christmas to the people, was torne up and cast mas to the people, was torne up and cast downe by the malignant spirit (as was thought), and the stones of the pavement all about were cast into the street, and into divers houses, so that the people were sore agast at the great tempest."

The Yule Log Custom. The burning of the yule log was a Scandi-

navian custom. Bringing it in was the principal ceremony of Christmas eve. Its entrance was welcomed by minstrelsy. We give a few stanzas of a ditty, supposed to be of the time of Henry VI, in the Sloane Manuscripts:

Welcome be thou, heavenly King, Welcome born on this morning. Welcome for whom we shall sing.

Welcome be ye, Stephen and John; Welcome Innocents every one; Welcome Thomas Martyr one; Welcome Yule,

Welcome be ye that are here; \*
Welcome all, and make good cheer;
Welcome all another year,
Welcome Yule.

was considered a bad own if a squinting person entered the hall while it was burning. A Yule candle of enormous size was also lighted. Brand, in his Popular Antiquities, states that, in the buttery of St. John's College, Oxford, an ancient candle-socket of stone still remains, ornamented with the Agnus Dei. This was for holding

Part of the log was carefully preserved t light the Yufe-log of the succeeding year. It was also believed that its preservation was an effectual security against fire. It the Christmas candle, which burned on the high table at supper. In Devonshire the Yule-log is an asien fagot. In Cornwall the log is called "the nock." A custom still practiced in the former county is for Christmas eve, and offer cider and hot cake as a dibation to the principal apple tree. Guns are fired while the liquor is being poured on the trees and poured on the tree; and songs are sung, the burden of which seems to be to request the tree to bear well next season. the tree to bear well next season. A beau-tiful superstition was current in Devon and Cornwall, and still lingers in remote dis-tricts, that the cattle in their stalls fall down and worship the infant Savior. Bees are said to sing in their hives.

Celebrations of English Kings. William the Conqueror usually kept his Christmas at Gloucester, but William II honored Winchester at that festival. Hen-

first four years of his reign, and then celebrated it at Windsor. Henry II kept his first Christmas at Bermondsey, and in 1171 in Ireland. In 1201 John kept Christmas in Ireland. In 1201 John kept Christmas at Guildford, but was very angry because the Archbishop of Canterbury attempted to outdo him in extravagance. In 1241 the nobles who appeared at Westminster were outraged because the papal legate had the place of honor at the banquet; but Henry III's Christmas in 1252 was a great success one thousand knights attenuing, peers of the realm, to witness the marriage of the Princess Margaret with Alexander, King of the Scots. The archbishop of York gave six hundred fat oxen and £2,700 toward the expenses. In 1248 Henry ordered Westminster Hall to be filled with poor people and feasted for a week. Edward 1 kept Christmas at Bury, Collingham, Ipskept Christmas at Bury, Collingham, Ipskept Christmas at Bury and 1325 had been planted elsewhere, so that blossoms were taken abroad and sold as relies by the Bristol merchants. In the Gentlewich, Bristol, and Carlisle. In 1324 and 1325 Edward II kept the festival royally at Nottingham, but 1326 found him a prisoner at Kenilworth. Edward III kept Christmas at Guildford in 1331 and 1348, masques and mummings on a large scale being exhibited. When Richard II kept Christmas at Litchfold he aplayed the enjegonal palace. Litchfield, he enlarged the episcopal palace, and 2,000 oxen and 200 tuns of wine were consumed on the occasion. Ten thousand people dined daily at the expense of the king. Richard kept 2,000 cooks, who gave to the world the famous cookery book, The Form of Cury, 1380. Henry VI, in 1433, kept Christmas at Bury, and was met on Newmarket Heath by the aldermen and five hundred townsmen; and the Lord Ab-bot of the famous monastery entertained him in a manner worthy such a princely foundation. Henry VII generally kept Christmas in Westminster Hall, feasting

high prices.

Bough.

The Symbol of the Holly.

Among customs now disused a ceremony

the reign of Charles II of bringing a branch

of the Glastonbury thorn, which usually

blossoms on Christmas eve, in procession

In connection with the holly, which fig-ures so conspicuously in all Christmas dec-

will, in summer, enable you to relish that green world of which you show yourself

not unworthy. In Germany and Scandinavia the holly, or holly tree, is called "Christ's thorn," from its use in church decorations, and because it bears its berries

at Christmastide. The loving sentiment imprisoned in the holly bough and trans-

Ye who have scorned each other, Or injured friend or brother, In this fast-fading year; Ye who by word or deed Have made a kind heart bleed, Come gather here!

Let sinned against and sinning Forget their strife's beginning, And join in friendship now; Be links no longer broken, Be sweet forgiveness spoken, Under the holly bough.

On Christmas Morn.

The Bethlehem babe, so long foretold, had come,

Was giv'n that night by her whom heaven blessed

Was prayed by lips that hushed and oft caresse

Was heard and stilled, down in that manger bed.

The same fond hopes, born now in woman's breast

Gave birth to song-and left the same unrest.

A fear unfelt, till then it pierced the soul-

Beneath what star-what fate did it portend!

The same moon shone from out the heaven's blo

As beams on us, and soft rays shimmered through,

And falling there, lay soft, and added grace
To that fair child, in that strange, lowly place

The morning came, as mornings come and go;

The same sun woke all nature with its glow;

The same earth stirred; and feet began to run,

One day the look the child gives back to her

Who gives it birth came in those eyes to stir That mother's soul, and there she saw and knew

She read the words, but saw not where the hand That wrote them out, wrote songs of triumph, too-

She saw the gloom, but could not pierce it through.

We know that night was born the King of Kings;

New Use for Electricity.

It is proposed to employ the electrical de-

tions of prismatic glass, so as to unite them

to form large sheets for windows. The

sections are mounted loosely in frames of thin ribbon or wire, forming the "cathode,"

and near them, acting as the "anode," is a similar framework of the metal, of which

The metal is deposited along the wires, be-

tween them and the glass, until a complete grid or frame is formed, which holds the portions of glass firmly together in one

The Surprised Fisherman.

(A boys' trick-in three pictures.)

he electro-deposited frame is to be formed.

We sing the song that angels fain would know

Washington, D. C., December, 1897.

From the Chicago Chronicle.

From Fliegende Blatter.

Then, just as now, the race toward setting sun.

A life begun! how should it live and end!

Just such a breeze as now wafts perfume in

Written for The Evening Star.

Swept o'er the hills of fair Judea

That cradled lay among the cattle dumb

Just such a prayer as lips are wont to pray

king and queen on Christmas morning.

his subjects right royally. The kings al-ways wore their crowns on these occasions. Lavish Entertainments.

Henry VIII took a conspicuous part in the festivities, and kept Christmas generally at Greenwich and Richmond. Artificial gardens, tents, etc., were devised in the hall, out of which came dancers, or knights who fought. The cloth of gold for one of these cost 1600. After a few years Henry con-tented himself with a duller Christmas, and generally gambled a good deal on the occa-sion. In the time of Edward VI a gentleman named Ferrers was made Lord of Misrule, and was very clever in inventing plays and interludes. The money lavished on these entertainments was enormous; one of his lordship's dresses cost £52, and he had a train of counsellors, gentiemen ushers, footmen, pages, etc. Mary and Elizabeth kept Christmas at Hampton court, but the entertainments of the latter were much gayer than those of her sister. Ben Jon-son was masque writer at the court of James. Three thousand pounds were ex-pended upon that writer's Masque of Blackiess, performed at Whitehall in 1605. Charles I kept Christmas like his father; but the Puritans abolished it altogether: and Charles II did not restore it to any-thing approaching its former magnificence.

Favorite Forms of Fun. Mumming was a favorite Christmas amusement in the olden time. In Scotland the mummers were styled guisers or guiz-Mummer is the same as masker (Danish mumme, or Dutch momme). This custom was derived from the masquerades which formed a part of the Roman Satur-nalia. The mystery or miracle plays are an example of the policy of the church chang-ing the revels of the heathen into church amusements. Stowe tells us of a splendid masquerade which, in 1377, was performed by the citizens of London before Candlemas for the amusement of Richard, son of the Black Prince, afterward Richard II. Twelve at Eltham as mummers. Henry VIII actually passed an act declaring mummers li-able to be committed to jail as vagabonds. A sort of drama like the legend of St. George was generally acted by the mum-mers, in which St. George fought a Turk, and a doctor worked a wonderful cure on the wounded man.

Christmas Carols.

On Christmas eve, and on the morning of Christmas day, carols were sung, many The awful wee that pierced her own heart through old specimens of which are very interest-The word is probably derived from cantare, to sing, and rola! a joyous exclamation. Wynkyn de Worde, 1521, published a collection of carols, and many early ones are preserved in the British Museum. Other early collections are: "Cer- That yet the earth and heaven with anthem rings! seum. Other early collections are: "Certayne goodly Carowles to be songe to the Glory of God;" and again, "Chrestenmas Carowles auctorisshed by my Lord of London." The Puritans, of course, denounced the singing of carols in again, hed by On Christmas morn, when skies are all aglow.
-P. H. BRISTOW. the same spirit as they fasted on Christ-mas day. Bishop Hall and Robert Herrick (seventeenth century) both wrote carols. It is a curious fact that carol-singing has never been very prevalent in Scotland. We will now give one or two specimens of old The following is of the time of Henry VI:

PUER NOBIS NATUS EST DE VIRGINE MARIA. R NOBIS NATUS LSI DE VALLES LYSTENJA, lordyngs, more and less, I bryng you tydyns of gladnes, As Gabriel beryt witness:

dicam vobis quia.

I bryng you tydynges that fwul gowde; Now es borne a biyesful fowde That bowt us alle upon the rode

Fro ye fader Jhesu ho cam Here in herthe howre kende he nam

Mayde Moder, swete virgine, Was godnys nay no man divine, Sche bare a schild wyt wot pnye, teste profecia,

Milton, in "Paradise Lost," thus alludes o the first Christmas carol: His place of birth a solemn angel tells To simple shepherds, keeping watch by nig They gladly thither haste, and by a quire Of squadroned angels hear his carol sung.

The Waits and Their Duties. Connected with carols are our old friends the waits. As early as 1400 there was a regular company of these minstrels at Exeter, and Rymer gives the following account of the duties of such people: "A wayte that nightelye from Mychelmas to Shreve Thursdaye pipeth the watche withen this courte fower tymes, in the somere nyghtes ii times, and makeithe bon gayte at every chambere-dore and offyce, well for feare of pyckeres and pillers, e eateth in the hall with mynstrielles, and takeithe lyverye at night o loffe, a gallone of alle, and for somere nyghtes two candles pich, a bushel of coles; dayle whilste he is presente in courte for his wages in cheque roale allowed lilid ob, or else lilid by the discretion of the steuarde and tressorere, and that afore his cominge and diservinge; also cloathinge with the household yeomen or mynstrielles luke to the wages that he takethe; and if he be syke, he takethe two loves, two messe of great meate, one gallone of alle. Also this yeoman waight, at the makynge of the Knyghtes of the Bath, for his attendance upon them by nyghte tyme in watching in the chappelle, hath he to his fee all the watchinge clothinge that the knyghte shall wear upon him." From parts of this description is would appear that the walk was a sort of watchman. In many old books the term is applied to a musical instrument. Butler, in his Principles of Musick (1636), implies that it was the same as the hautbois. Mr. Coleridge considers that the waits were wind-instrument play-ers, as the word occurs with that meaning in the "Romance of Kyng Alysaunder." In Scotland the word waith signifies to wan-der, and perhaps there is a connection between the words. The waits became paid town musicians, and were often employed as watchmen. In Westminster the appointment was under the control of the high constable and the court of burgesses, and was much sought after.

Favorite Dishes.

The peacock was a favorite dish. Some times it was served in a pie, with the tail spreading out at one end, and the head at he other. But generally the bird was skinned, roasted, stuffed with herbs and sweet spices; then the skin, with the plumage, was put on again, and it was borne in by a lady, and placed at the chief part of the table. Oaths were taken with drawn sword over it; hence the saying: "By cock and pie." Furmety, served with milk of almonds, yolks of eggs, etc., was also a favorite dish. We must not forget the mince pie (not unknown in our own time). In 1596 they were known by the name of "mutton pies." According to Selden, they were baked in a coffin-shaped crust, intended to represent the manger in which the child Jesus was laid. Mince pies, of course,

were abhorred by the Puritans: The high-shoe lords of Cromwell's making Were not for dainties—roasting—baking: The chiefest food they found most good in Was rusty bacon and bag pudding; Pium-broth was popish, and mince-pie—Oh, that was flat idolatry!

As for the plum pudding, a recipe for that indispensable part of the Christmas dinner

is found in the Whole Body of Cookery Dissected for 1675.

In the well-known game of snapdragon a trace of the Druidical fire worship and

a trace of the Druidical fire worship and the fiery ordeal of the middle ages may be readily found.

Hearne's "History and Antiquities of Glastonbury," 1722, tells of the famous thorn tree which blows on Christmas day. According to the legend, St. Joseph of Arimathea landed not far from the town, and stuck his staff into the ground while he rested himself. The stick struck root A Christmas Day Incident in South America.

THE READY HELP OF THE BLUEJACKETS

How Uncle Sam's Boys Saved Life and Prevented Bloodshed.

A LONG, ANXIOUS NIGHT

By Commander F. W. Dickins, U.S.N. Pacing up and down the quarter deck of the man-of-war which I had the honor and

existed at the court of England as late as pleasure to command in 1888, beneath the widespread awnings, the holiday air aboard the ship alone gave evidence of its being Christmas day. Jack, in his mustering and presenting it, with great pomp, to the clothes, no drills, no work; almost as quiet as the scene which met my eyes as I gazed about upon the broad stretches of the Rio orations, a quaint old concelt is chronicled, that every holly bough and lump of berries with which you adorn your house is an act of natural piety as well as beauty, and de la Plata, showing more gold than silver beneath the hot rays of the summer sun; the low-lying, green and fertile banks of the Uruguay country, their monotony only broken here and there by clumps of trees or a low white house, until one came to the quaint gray town crowning a point that stood out boldly into the waters. Very old and picturesque is the quaint little town of lated into every language will, perhaps, never be more happily expressed than in Charles Mackay's verses, "Under the Holly Colonia dei Sacramento, and built with such narrow streets that one wonders if the original European settlers were afraid to transgress the bounds of the Indian camp which formerly occupied the site. Hoping to celebrate the day in some way, before noon I went ashore, seeing and hearing nothing to disturb the serenity of the day, until I had walked up the short stone pier and came to the entrance of the little stone-paved plaza.

A Scene of Strife. There I found blood everywhere upon the pavement, and especially near a small corner shop, where it had splashed upon the walls as well. The iron-work gates of the police barracks were closed and barred, with two fully armed men as sentinels showing within. Usually these gates stood hospitably wide open, with only a few men off duty to be seen lounging near them, resting, or, if busy at all, it would be only in making and drinking mate. An excited crowd was in a nearby street, and I was soon informed that men had been killed and were in the barracks. Going to the house of our consul. I learned that the two sons of the jefe politico, or governor of the province, had, in the absence of their faher, taken the law into their own hands, or rather, made law, as there was none to cover the injury done their family by the man who had left his refuge in Argentina and ventured home. They had attacked and killed him on the plaza, for which no one blamed them, but they had also killed his brother-in-law, who happened to be with him, and as this latter was a good man, father of a large family, and popular, the populace wished to get the two young men and deal out speedy punishment. When the original fray was over, four men lay in the plaza, and the police had gathered them in, as well as numerous weapons. The attacking parties were only wounded, the other two were dead.

Fear of a Revolution. The first official who represented the goverrment was in great fear that he could not protect the sons of his chief, and all whom I saw feared an outbreak and revolution, as crowds were about, and they were painting red crosses on the doors of the houses of the young men's friends. The first official sent for me and wanted me to protect lives and property. He asked for twenty-five men. I debated the matter with him, and urged him to help himself, if possible; but he showed me how few men he had—only enough to patrol peaceful streets. Finally, after talking the matter over with our consul, I went on board, got twenty-five marines in a boat and brought them to the wharf. Then, keeping them still in the boat, I again talked with the gentleman, and finally he said he would be satisfied if I would promise to send them in case he made signal during the night. I promised, and spent the rest of the day walking about the streets and at our consul's. Things still looked squally when I went off at dusk. but dinner was eaten in quiet, and as a group of us were smoking our cigars on deck afterward, all seemed so still hoped for the best. The men were swing-ing in their hammocks, dreaming, I fancy of home or plum duff, and we were abou to follow their example, when the sign for help came sounding over the waters.

A Quick Response. In fifteen minutes twenty-five marines armed and equipped, were in the hoats. and the officer in command had his written instructions to keep well within cover, be gin nothing, but, if attacked, ic defend the American consulate and the wounded. They pulled away in the darkness; then a Gatling gun and ball and cartridges for a company of bluejackets was prepared, and we spent the rest of the Christmas night with open ears, watching and wait ing. In the morning news came that a crowd had filled the plaza during the night and alarmed the town. They held sway until our men were seen landing on the wharf. Then silence reigned, and as the little body who looked so like business marched along nothing was heard but their tramp and the few necessary orders to direct their course. They disappeared within the building, and the crowd grad-ually dispersed, meeting at a house outside the town and staying there until the mext day, when a steamer came from Montevideo, bearing Uruguayan troops. My men came back, with the thanks of the officials, martial law was proclaimed, and the wounded men sent to Montevideo for treatment. Thus were lives saved, peace that the steam and a sister wantlike helped. kept and a sister republic helped over a time of trouble by one of Uncle Sam's war ships being at hard. No one could have foreseen the difficulty, and the Uruguay-ans, like ourselves, kept a small regular force which cannot always be everywhere To save life, to keep the peace, to be strong arm to aid the civil law, has always seemed to me the greatest privilege of trained military force, and this is why I gave my aid that Christmas day long ago.

THE YORKTOWN OF TODAY

An Isolated Community in the Shadow of Departed Glory.

Written for The Evening Star., With thoughts of Yorktown are associated memories of the struggle and triumph of the patriot army culminating here. But the Yorktown of today with its halo of romantic history is not devoid of interest; indeed, as a type of isolated rural community sitting in the shadow of departed glory it is at once interesting and pathetic. This quiet little village, the court house town of York county, Va., is located on a bluff overlooking the York river, famous alike for its historic associations and its delicious cysters. The town has been almost unchanged for more than a century. Two monuments have recently been erected, one by the nation and the other by the state of Virginia; but with this exception all that is substantial or interesting in the Yorktown of today reaches far back into the preceding century. Evidences of decay incident to age and absence of care are everywhere visible; but rugged brick walls, tygrown, have well withstood the favages of time. An oblong two-story brick building, now tightly closed and apparently used as a storehouse for farm products, has a history as a custom house antedating that of New York. There can be little doubt indeed that at one time vessels sailing from the port of New York were compelled to clear at this custom house.

The old Nelson house still stands; strong, rugged and commanding. It was here that Thomas Nelson lived and died. He was a member of the Continental Congress, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and, later, governor of the state of Virginia. The mansion is commodious and will monuments have recently been erected, one

compare favorably with colonial mansions in any part of our country. It has fallen into ill-repair, but the walls and partitions, floors and windows, remain as in early days noors and windows, remain as in early days and speak volumes for the architects and builders who wrought before the days of modern competition. The building could, at comparatively small expense, be put in a condition equaling that of the days when within its walls the state of Virginia gave to Lafayette a splendid reception and banquet upon the occasion of his second visit to our shores.

The present owner, a Pennsylvanian ex-

The present owner, a Pennsylvanian, exhibits with pride the room in which the reception was held, and just across the spacious hall the room in which the banquet was served. This house of splendid history and solid colonial architecture should be an object of care by some of our many hisobject of care by some of our many his-

ough Yorktown is so rich in historical associations, there is no attempt upon the part of its citizens to make merchandise of its past. Souvenirs and photographs are not for sale. Indeed, the photographer seems to have given the place a wide berth.

The Village of Today.

The village of Yorktown has, by accident or design, assumed the form of the letter L, the short part of the letter running back straight from the river for a distance of three hundred yards, while the street representing the stem runs south and parallel with the river until it degenerates into a cattle path in the distance.

About twenty houses, old and new, big and little, comprise the village of today. One hotel and one residence, where we learn from a small sign "private enter-tainment" may be had, accommodate the traveling public, and the capacity of these

hostelries is at no time overtaxed.

One little church of the Episcopal faith, with a history running back to the days of Church of England establishment, answers the requirements of such of the white pop-ulation as are religiously inclined. Denominational clashing cannot exist in Yorktown. The colored people had a mod-ern frame church building, but it was re-cently destroyed by fire, cently destroyed by fire, and they are, even in these chill autumn days, worshiping in a brush arbor. However, they are row collecting funds for the new building, and visitors to Yorktown are importuned to assist in except to assist in erecting a place of worship for the descendants of the servants of Washington and Cornwallis.

One of the most interesting objects in

connection with this locality is the small red sandstone snaft erected by the state of Virginia on the site of the surrender of the British army. As one stands on this spot, the marshaled forces seem almost to be present, and this culminating scene in the drama of war to be re-enacted. We are just a little disappointed that Lord Cornwallis should have shouldered off upon a subordinate the somewhat unpalatable function of that October day. Out of respect for posterity, he might have consented to surrender in person. But this may be but the exacting and ungracious requirement of a too insistent Americanism. Nevertheless, we have never been fully convinced that Cornwallis' sickness on this occasion was entirely genuine. e present, and this culminating scene in ness on this occasion was entirely genuine

Where the British Surrendered. The scene of the surrender is about a mile southwest of the town and immediately adjacent to the National cemetery. in which lie buried over two thousand soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in the peninsula campaign of our late war. The government bestows praiseworthy care upon this resting place of its dead, and the cemetery is kept in perfect condition.

At Yorktown one naturally looks for the lines of the British breastworks, and these heavy defenses are still plainly discernible in certain directions. The heaped-up soil has become overrun with wild grape and Virginia creeper, which have nobly aided in preserving these most interesting landmarks. Very heavy breastworks were erected just back of the village during our late war, but these are more clearly defined and manifestly more recent of construction and will not be confounded with struction, and will not be confounded with the original and more interesting lines. Yorktown and vicinity is the home of typical Virginia country negroes. Fat, lazy,rag-ged, but uniformly polite, they are every-

ged, but uniformly pointe, they are every-where in evidence. On Saturdays they throng the stores, whither they come to dispose of some small farm product in ex-change for tobacco, coffee, sugar, calico or similar commodity. If they kept fewer dogs they might be more prosperous, but scarcely more happy. The sleepy atmosphere of Yorktown seems to enthrall its negro population, and they are as repreentative of a hundred years ago as of today. Circumstances seem to favor the re-tention of Yorktown as the repository of the spirit of a past age. There is no railroad within seven miles, and the telegraph and telephone are equally remote. The tri-weekly visits of a steamboat and the ubiquitous mail carrier alone serve to keep the community in touch with the outer and, apparently, remote world of activity and progress. The true historic atmos-phere seems to bathe this quaint little town, and one almost expects the ghost of the past to appear on its cliffs and haunt its ravines. Around the base of Bunker Hill the busy tide of modern travel has surged, and near at hand are the sights and sounds of a great city, and we seem held in the embrace of the present But what a difference at Yorktown! One can scarcely help living in the past while here, and the very air, hanging lazy and soft over the river and shore, seems to breathe to our senses the story of the early days and their deeds of daring and

ART AND ARTISTS

The latest specimen of burnt wood decora tion from Mr. William Fuller Curtis' hand is a real gem of artistic workmanship. It is a small casket, about a foot long and four inches high, the top and sides being adorned with quite the daintiest designs that Mr. Curtis has ever executed-decora tions that rank, perhaps, with the best work yet produced in this medium by any one. Placed against a pleasing arabesque pattern are cherub figures, which, left in the natural color of the wood, stand out light against the soft brown of the back ground, the effect being similar to old ivory. While preserving the solid decorative aspect of the design by the introduction of conventional forms, Mr. Curtis has allowed himself the greatest artistic freedom in his figures, and the work as a whole is graceful, original, satisfying. He has placed this box on view at Fischer's, where other examples of his work in pyrography may also be seen.

Miss Aline Solomons has been spending a week or two in New York, enjoying the many small exhibits that form such an interesting feature of life in the metropolis She has been visiting Mrs. Josepha Whit ney, who, as a former member of the local artistic fraternity, is well known here.

Miss Grace Lincoln Temple held her an nual exhibition last week at her studio in the Cairo, and the tastefully arranged display was admired by a large number of visitors. The walls were draped with handsome hangings and artistic wall papers and the two rooms showed forth in a small way some of the esthetic color combinations that may be used in interior decoration. The harmonious arrangement of the many different colors called for no little skill, but the problem was successfully solved, the general effect was very pleasing to the eye. Among the most interesting of the artistic wall papers were a beautiful tapestry pattern in dull colors, and a half pic-torial design in deep red, in which there is a woman's figure among the curving lotus

In Mr. E. H. Miller's studio there is a small group of water colors, the result of his vacation spent in the Catskills, which show him at his best. The most thoroughly satisfying of all these pictures is one that brings before the eye a view of cool woods, where the ground is checquered with dancing patches of sunshine. Winding in and out among the trees is a swift-running brook, and the sparkling water tumbling over the stones is rendered in a very skillful manner. Mr. Miller says that it makes him feel like a boy again to wander in the heart of the woods, and this love of nature is evident in his intimate grasp of such a subject and in the sympathetic manner in which he handles it. Another interesting wood interior from his brush shows a dark wood interiors from his brush shows a dark mysterious nook, where the sunshine wastes itself upon the tree tops, and scarce-ly more than a glimmer of it reaches the fern-covered ground below. The artist made a couple of truthful studies of a yiew

seen from the windows of his summer home, and in both of these water colors he has well indicated the peculiar formation of the hill in the middle distance, suggesting its actual structure very forcibly. One sketch was painted at a time when daisies whitened the broad acres, but the flowers have vanished from the fields in the second study, and the landscape has the effect seen just after a rain. In the line of portraiture Mr. Miller is busying himself with a water color head of a sweet-faced old lady.

The much improved health that Mr. Robert Hinckley has been enjoying has crabled him to apply himself more indus-

triously to his painting, and his studio con-

tains many canvases in various stages of completion. Mr. C. C. Glover, who has een the subject of several portraits by Mr. Hinckley, is again sitting, and the pertrait promises to be a characteristic ikeness when it has received the finishing touches. It is a three-quarter-length figure, and the pose is easy and unconventional, Mr. Glover being seated close to a table, upon which he has just laid the paper that he has been reading. The artist is also engaged upon a figure of Mr. Geo. Hellen in hunting costume. A strong color Hellen in hunting costume. A strong color note is sounded in the scarlet coat, which, with the white riding breeches, gives an interesting effect of color. With a thought to restoring it. Mr. Hinckley has recently taken hold of a portrait that he painted of Chief Justice Fuller a good many years ago. It has changed considerably, even in the comparatively short time since it was painted, but there may be two opinions as to whether the hand of time has not as to whether the hand of time has not improved rather than marred it. While the picture as a whole has suffered in gen-eral harmony, the head itself has taken on mellow richness of color that is wonderfully fine.

Tuesday, the 28th, is the date set for the masquerade ball that the pupils of the Art Students' League are getting up a holiday merrymaking. There will be dancing in the main class rooms, and the water color room will be fitted up for fortunetelling of various kinds. These gatherings are always jolly and informal, and there is every reason to suppose that this affair will prove no exception to the rule.

Now that the pictures generously donated

to the Corcoran Art Gallery by the lega-

tees of the Lemon estate have nearly all been hung, a more detailed mention than has heretofore been given of them may not be amiss. The pictures are grouped together in the southwest corner room, and the little collection is a notable addition to the art treasures of the gallery. One of the first canvases that strikes the eye is Edouard Detaille's "General of the First Empire," a powerfully realistic painting. Every fold and wrinkle in the uniforms of the officers and men, and every glistening bit of metal in the harness of their horses is set down with the most faithful precision, and yet the artist has not lost sight of the spirit and action of the scene as a whole. Van Marcke's "Cows in the Meadow" and Rosa Bonheur's study of a bull, a huge animal outwardly placid, but with a rather belligerent gleam in his eye, will find favor with lovers of cattle subjects. Chialiva has painted better things than the picture showing a shepherd with his children and flock, but it is full of sun-light, and is quite pleasing withal. The Cazin, a delicate transcript from nature opens a window right out upon the Sepmber fields with their gathered grain, and fascinates one with its clusive but genuine charm. The collection also contains two typical marines by William T. Richards and a richly colored Cairo street scene by

Since the magnificent tapestries loaned by Mr. Ffoulke of this city were placed on the walls of the gallery a little booklet has been printed that sheds light upon their history and meaning. According to this catalogue five of them issued from the studios that Cardinal Francois Barberini established in Rome after his return from France, and one was woven in the Gobelin looms, in the reign of Louis XIII. It was with great difficulty that Mr. Ffoulke obtained permission from the Italian government to bring the tapestries out of the country. All of the designs represent scenes n the life of Constantine the Great and beginning with the south wall of the main stairway, where the tapestries are placed, the first design represents the battle Bosphorus between the fleets of the em-peror and Linicius. In the second design Constantine is burning the creed of the Arians at Nicea, and in the third he is shown in the act of slaving a lion in gladiatorial combat. Reubens made the cartoon for the fourth design, representing Constantine superintending the construction of Constantinople. The fifth of these valuable seventeenth century tapestries shows the emperor contemplating the Flaming Cross in the sky and in the sixth he is de stroying idols and replacing them with Christian statues.

Mr. G. S. Truesdell will leave France shortly, and expects to come to this country to live permanently. He will probably reach New York about the first of the new year, and after a short stay there he will pay Washington a visit. Mr. Truesdell plans to make Colorado his home for a few years, hoping that the climate will do much to recruit his health. He will be represent-ed in the exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts by a ploughing scene in Normandy.

At Fischer's there is a fine painting by Tiepolo, one of those masterly pieces of arrangement in which every turn of the hand and every fold in the drapery has a definite place in the composition and carry the eye from one figure to another. The picture is handled with great simplicity of style, and is marked by a fine quality of color. Another picture of interest is the landscape by Hobbema, with its wonderful atention to the most minute details tractive pictures, among which one may mention the well-painted genre subject d'Entraygues, the landscape by Frank Boggs and the typical canvas from Percy Moran's easel.

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Mr. Rudolph Evans left last week for Paris, where he will continue his art study. probably in the atelier Julien. The young sculptor's work here has shown such promise that it is safe to predict for him a great measure of success in his study abroad. Before leaving he made a bas-relief of his friend and studio partner, Mr. W. H. Coffin, a portrait that is, with the exception of one or two minor points, a very satisfactory likeness. In another strong profile that he made recently the face is well modeled and is full of life and expression.

A portrait of Mr. Evans which Mr. Coffin has just finished is one of the best things that he has painted for some time. It is a strong likeness, and the face is noticeably lifelike in its expression. The placing of the hands squarely upon the lower edge of the canvas is unfortunate, as the figure is the canvas is unfortunate, as the figure is so well posed in other respects. Simple, vigorous handling characterizes all of Mr. Coffin's work, but one notices these quali-ties especially in some of his smaller heads, such as the profile view of an old man and in the interesting head of a young poet. The artist has been spending several weeks up in Virginia.



LONDON'S DEFENSES

Possibility of a Hostile Fleet Taking

FOUR FORTS COMMAND THE THAMES

the Capital.

Every Year the System is Given a Thorough Test.

AN EFFECTIVE TORPEDO

Written for The Evening Star by Lt.R. Scallan, R.A. In view of the excitement caused by the recent resolutions adopted by the New York chamber of commerce regarding the improvements which that body deems advisable in the defenses and fortifications of New York harbor, it is interesting to consider the means by which the war department of the British government proposes to repel any attempt on the part of a hostile fleet to take London by surprise. It is not generally known, in fact, very few people outside the official pale are aware that a mobilization and manning of the Thames ports and batteries takes place annually, and in a mimic war the efficiency of the defenses is tested. These maneuvers for 1897 are but lately concluded, and the impression created on the mind of a casual spectator is that, though more or less satisfactory as far as they go, yet the means taken to defend the great capi-tal leave much to be desired from one point of view, namely, an attack from the land side, if ever an enemy should suc-ceed in making an effective landing of troops by eluding the vigilance of England's pride and glory, her navy.

Ever since Napoleon cast terror through-out the length and breadth of Great Brit-ain by his threat of invasion, the possibility of such a misfortune has been the nightmare of commercial England, and, accordingly, following the maxim of Wellington and Nelson, that England's navy must be her first line of defense, this arm has been improved and added to with an expenditure of money that the imagination recoils from, until now the admiralty declares it capable of meeting any possi combination of the world's navies. from time to time a still small voice ha been heard putting the anxious query: "Supposing that, notwithstanding every precaution, an enemy should clude our ships, and a landing in force be effected, what is going to prevent the devastation of the country, or even the sack of Lon-don itself?"

Four Strong Forts. There are four very strong forts which

command the Thames river close to London. They are called, respectively, Coalhouse fort, Coalhouse battery and the forts of Cliffe and Shornemead. Like the harbor defenses of New York, these forts are provided with a number of intricate apliances which are essential for the pro-tection of the river approach to Woolwich and London. The annual maneuvers are held mainly with the object of testing the working of these appliances, as, though each fort is occupied by a special detach-ment of trained gunners, whose particular duty is the cleaning and testing of the machinery, yet the elaborate and cossily instruments, such as telephones and range finders, can only be practically inspected by their employment under service conditions, so that mistakes can be rectified and inaccuries adjusted.

This year two companies of garrison

artillery were told off to man the batteries, that is, a force of about 400 men. The accommodation for troops is none of the best, and some difficulty is attached to obtaining the necessary supplies. But soldiers make light of these things, and everybody soon makes himself at home, for the time being. The first couple of days are spent in gun drill, and also in instruction as to the repelling of torpedo boat attacks. The interesting part from an outsider's point of view begins with the supposed declaration of war The program of operations this year included attempts on the part of the fleet of torpedo destroyers and auxiliary vessels to sur prise the forts and run past them.

A Mimie War. Hostilities began on the third night, and accordingly officers and men were all on the alert. Reliefs were told off to man the guns, and a "lookout" squad, consisting of an officer and a few men, was posted on the top of each fort, to warn the garrisons of the approach of any suspicious-looking craft. About 7 in the evening the royal engineer detachment began to put in their fine work, and swept the whole river with the powerful electric search-light belonging to Cliffe fort. The hours were passing slowly, and toward 9 o'clock one of the "lookout" officers thought he could discern a torpedo destroyer coming up the river at a great pace. He gave the alarm, and everybody was preparing for "action," when suddenly one of those heavy, dense, impenetrable mists for which the Thames is famous fell over the river and promptly obscured everything. The "gunners" were intensely disappointed, as of course nothing could prevent the success of the enemy's attempt, unless the fog should fortunately prove too dense to al-low the torpedo boat to proceed and risk the encountering of submarine mines and the danger of running ashore. So the event proved, and in the morning, when the

fog lifted, it was seen that no attempt to run past the forts had been made. However, at daybreak the fleet was sighted coming up the river, and imme-diately a heavy fire was opened on the boats from all the guns available. The unanimous verdict was that no fleet of un-armored vessels such as those making the attack could have survived the hall of shot and shell which was poured in upon them. After the failure of the first attempt no further attack was made until nightfall again, though in consequence of the diffi-culty of distinguishing friends from foes several false alarms were made in the course of the day. Operations were con-tinued during that night, and the succeeding two days and nights, with the general result that the guns were masters of the

The Brennan Torpedo.

Toward the end of the week, during which the operations lasted, a trial was made of the Brennan torpedo, which is the exclusive property of the British government and a most valuable addition to coast defense. The continued success of its trials has convinced every one who has seen it in operation of the value of the weapon in harbors and narrow waterways in time of war. The secret of its mechanism is most jealously guarded. Even the officers ends and are bound not to reveal anything they do discover. The popular theory is that the torpedo works on the principle of a reel of thread, which rolls away from a person who pulls the loose end of the thread. Be that as it may, it is certain that the torpedo can be directed from the shore, and with an expert at the helm the striking and blowing up of a ship on every run is a practical certainty, the lit-tle engine of war doubling in and out and dashing Lither and thither at a speed of nearly ten knots an hour and acting within

a large radius.

The result of the "defense of London maneuvers shows that no hostile fleet could ever hope to force or even obtain by stratagem a passage beyond the deby stratagem a passage beyond the de-fending batteries; but, in comparing the defenses of that city with those of New York, it is advisable to consider that the waterway of this harbor is much more difficult to defend, as the enormous area and open situation is greatly to the advantage of a powerful fleet of battleships which would make their attack at a great distance. The liliputian maneuvers of Lontance. The liliputian maneuvers of Lon-don would have to be conducted here on a

Another Endless Chain. From the Chicago Journal.

probdignagian scale.

"Why do the politicians give that fellow

cles."
"But how does such a chap get influ-